



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Municipal Police Training Academy

Community College of Rhode Island — Flanagan Campus

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Colonel James M. Manni
Superintendent, Rhode Island State Police
Director, Department of Public Safety

Lieutenant Christopher J. Zarrella
Executive Director
Municipal Police Training Academy

Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training

Meeting Minutes

RIMPTA Academy Classroom, CCRI, Lincoln

May 20, 2021

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Chief Mello called to order the regular meeting of the Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training (POST) at 10:07 a.m. on **May 20, 2021**.

Chief Mello took a roll call. The following POST members were present at the meeting: Chief Mello, Colonel Michael Winkvist, and Mr. Shawn Brown. Absent is Maria Deaton and Colonel Hugh Clements. Also present were Lieutenant Christopher Zarrella, Donna Lavalley; Chief Sidney Wordell, Paul Dutra, Ryan Holt; Adam Sholes. We do have a quorum.

Chief Mello also noted that the meeting was on zoom as required under the Governor's Executive Order and there was no one present on zoom.

2. Discussion/Approval of minutes:

Chief Mello asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the POST meeting of February 25, 2021. Mr. Brown made a motion to accept the minutes; Colonel Winkvist seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

3. Hybrid-Academy Partnership

Chief Mello explained that he has had the discussion with Lt. Zarrella regarding how much of the approved curriculum has to be in the Academy. The curriculum is now 12 years old as the JTA was done in 2009. Lt. Zarrella replied that there is a fair amount being covered in the Academy that add hours to the program. Chief Mello explained that perhaps we could develop a partnership for some of the classroom portion with a school of higher education. That would streamline the Academy which would put our instructor's to better use and ensures someone's "skin in the game". It is a concept right now but worth pursuing. He talked about perhaps getting some feedback from Roger Williams University, School of Justice. The worst to come out of it may be a re-evaluation of our curriculum. Maybe they could review our curriculum. Lt. Zarrella said he would like to begin by reaching out to the States who have it. This all must be approved by DPS first. He would look to other states to see how much influence does a partnering agency have? Chief Wordell said that the N.E. Police Chiefs have brought this up. He stated that there were some years the Academy pushed through three classes but with the additional curriculum, it went to two. He feels it is the opportune time to address this as the Academy can't get enough officers on the road to reach the demand of the departments needs. Chief Mello added that this could create hours for other essential classes. Colonel Winkvist stated that a lot of his officers teach at N.E. Tech and maybe a police officer could

be required to instruct. The challenge would be having the recruit pay for it. Mr. Brown asked is the objective to shorten the time here at the Academy or to add more training. Chief Wordell answered he feels it is both. Mr. Brown's concern is the idea of now the recruits are in a regimen and they act differently. Reducing the time at the Academy with them taking classes outside, is the loss going to add back to the Academy? Lt. Zarrella stated he completely agrees with Mr. Brown. There is an intangibility at the Academy-the environment in which recruits learn certain skills is not the same in college classes. We are training police officers for a specific job-a job which is stressful and intense and needs to be executed in an environment that is disruptive at times. The Academy enables a constant anxiety environment so the recruit can learn and function while stressed out. Police officers need to know how to do their jobs with stress and the Academy mimics that. He would argue for that to remain. On the other hand, we could do a lot more with time. Chief Mello asked if there is a curve to that. The Lieutenant replied yes, it peaks later and drops towards the end. Some groups get that need to function as a team sooner. There are peaks and valleys throughout and it varies per Academy class. The important thing is the current curriculum was devised by a JTA in 2009. It was deemed necessary but policing has evolved since then. Chief Mello agreed and stated that maybe RWU can do a JTA. Even if we pursue for a new JTA at this point in time. Mr. Brown added that he feels that there is a safe space at the Academy where in a college environment, they get the mix and does this change the experience for the recruits. Chief Mello replied that there are pros and cons to that. The recruits are kept in a silo, a safe place at the Academy. There is a benefit to putting them in with civilians. Chief Wordell added that maybe just the Criminal Law. He stated that was the benefit of putting the Academy at CCRI-to have them intermingle with lay people on a daily basis. Lt. Zarrella replied that the mindset of a recruit is very different now.

4. Development of "Duty to Intervene"

Lt. Zarrella stated he met last week with Paul Dutra, Christine Crocker, David Bissonnette and some others regarding formulating a curriculum for Duty to Intervene. Colonel Mannie has asked us to come up with curriculum that speaks directly to this. Although this is taught in Use of Force and touched upon in a few other classes, the Colonel wants a formal curriculum. They are currently working on developing this curriculum to bring to the POST at a later date.

5. Request for Approval of Firearms Qualification Courses

- Airport Police
- Barrington PD
- Burrillville PD
- Charlestown PD
- Lincoln
- Rhode Island Department of Corrections
- Rhode Island Sheriffs Department
- Warwick PD
- Westerly PD

Lieutenant Zarrella stated that all meet the state requirements and he is recommending approval of all with the exception of Burrillville, Airport and Sheriffs. Those three he is asking to table as Captain Gould needs more information from them.

Colonel Winquist made a motion to approve Barrington, Charlestown, Lincoln, Warwick and Westerly Firearms courses; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion passes.

Mr. Brown made a motion to table Airport Police, Burrillville PD and RI Sheriffs Firearms; Colonel Winkvist seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion passes.

6. Update and Discussion on Class 2021-I

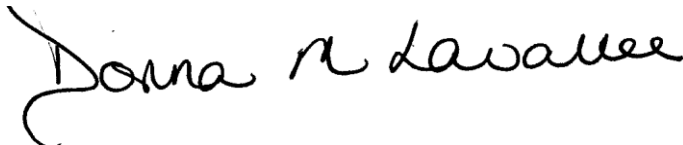
Lt. Zarrella stated that this current class has been phenomenal. There have been no failures and it is a solid class. 38 will graduate next Friday, May 28th. They used Alton Jones for Role Play one week.

Chief Mello added for the record that the Re-Certification policy has been signed by Colonel Manni and is in effect now. He will get a letter out to all Chiefs notifying them.

7. Adjournment

Mr. Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 am; Chief Mello seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna M Lavalley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donna M. Lavalley
Administrative Assistant